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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/621,138	07/20/2000	Takahiro Saito	960474B	3485

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EXAMINER

TUGBANG, DEXTER A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/621,138

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Dexter Tugbang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 20 July 2000 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/661,085.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: A Wire Harness Loosening Jig.

2. It is noted that the substitute specification filed 7/20/00 in the Amendment of Paper No. 2 has been entered.

Drawings

3. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets (i.e. Figure 15) of drawings, filed on 7/20/00 has been approved by the examiner.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 7 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: in the preamble of each of Claims 7 and 8, the term "loosing" appears to be misspelled. Apparently, applicants are referring to the term of --loosening--. Furthermore, the preamble of Claim 8, i.e. A wire harness..., is inconsistent with the preamble of Claim 7. The examiner recommends amending the preamble of Claim 8 to read as --The wire harness...--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In Claim 7, the phrase of "the other end" (lines 6-7) lacks positive antecedent basis.

Also in Claim 7, the inconsistency between the language in the preamble "A wire harness loosening jig..." and certain portions of the body of the claim such as "...a guide rail...of said wire harness;..." (lines 4-5) renders the scope of the claim vague and indefinite because it is unclear if the intent is to claim either the subcombination of the wire harness loosening jig alone, or the combination of the wire harness loosening jig and the wire harness. The applicant is asked to please clarify what subject matter the claim is intended to be drawn to where the language of the preamble of the claim is to be amended to be consistent with this intent.

For purposes of examination, the examiner assumes the applicants intended to claim the *combination* of the wire harness loosening jig and the wire harness.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Imbault 2,177,567 or Helm 4,512,828.

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Imbault discloses a wire harness loosening jig and wire harness (noting Figure 1) comprising: a fixing-side clamping portion (jaws 3) for clamping one end of a wire harness (cable 1); a guide rail (either rod 5 or 6) extending in a longitudinal direction of the wire harness 1; a movable-side clamping portion (jaws 4) for clamping another end of the wire harness 1; and a drive mechanism (threaded rods 5 or 6 and bolts) which enables the movable-side clamping portion 4 to move towards the fixing-side clamping portion 3 (see col. 2, line 71 to col. 3, line 8).

Helm discloses a wire harness loosening jig and wire harness comprising: a fixing-side clamping portion (clamping mechanism 56 in Fig. 1) for clamping one end of a wire harness (cable 21); a guide rail (either rod 32 or 34 in Fig. 4) extending in a longitudinal direction of the wire harness 21; a movable-side clamping portion (clamping mechanism 54) for clamping another end of the wire harness 21; and a drive mechanism (hydraulic system 72) which enables the movable-side clamping portion 54 to move towards or away from the fixing-side clamping portion 56 (see col. 4, lines 10-25).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

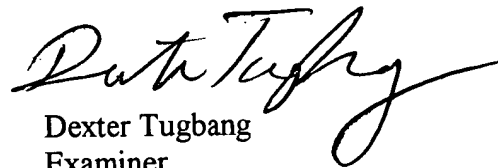
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 703-308-7599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3590 for regular communications and 703-305-3588 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



Dexter Tugbang
Examiner
Art Unit 3729

adt
November 16, 2001